



HF Happenings 801

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The ZS SOTA Weekend

Lucas Swart, ZS6ACT, has made arrangements that the SOTA team of Sid, ZS5AYC and Adele, ZS5APT Tyler and Lucas, ZS6ACT and Magda ZS6MMS Swart will be activating two summits in the Sani Pass area over the weekend of 28 June to 1 July.

The two 10 point summits are ZS/KN-010, Hodson's Peak South at 3 256 m and ZS/KN-011, Hodson's Peak North at 3 251 m, both are in Grid Locator KG40PJ. Chasers are needed, those that do not feel like going out in the cold, can chase from their shacks!

The team say it would be amazing if we made this a South African SOTA weekend with possible Summit to Summit (S2S) contacts. Maybe even S2S with other SOTA associations!

If anyone wants to join the team in Lesotho, you are more than welcome. The teams could be split and have S2S QSOs between the Hodson's peaks. You need to have a valid passport and arrange for accommodation at the Sani Backpackers Lodge, there is a restaurant at the top of Sani Pass and the highest Pub in Africa - reasonably expensive. The team will be self-catering, the restaurant does however make a delicious soup that is served with Basotho bread and butter. Be prepared for snow!

The team plan on activating both summits on Saturday 30 June, final arrangements of the exact times and frequencies will be sent later. We will arrive at the top of Sani Pass on Friday 29 June to acclimatize! If you cannot join us, what about activating a SOTA in your area? Let us have fun and play radio, either by participating in SOTA, Parks on the Air (ZS Fauna and Flora) or RaDAR.



June

27 to 30—InniBos Kunstfees, Nelspruit
30 – World Asteroid Day; **end of the SARL Financial year**
28 June to 8 July—the National Arts Festival and Wordfest, Grahamstown
29 June to 1 July – Kirkwood Wildfees
29 June to 8 July – Knysna Oyster Festival

July

1 - Start of SARL Financial Year and membership payment is due; **ZS5 Sprint**
2 - Closing date Top Band logs
6 to 8 – Umtamvuna Festival, Port Edward; Dullstroom Winter Festival; Lazy Hippo MTB Stage Races, Hanover
7 - **SARL Newbie QSO Party**; Rhodes Run, Rhodes EC
8 to 14 – Vrystaat Arts Festival, Bloemfontein
9 - Closing date ZS5 Sprint logs
13 - Friggatriskaidekaphobia
14 and 15 - **IARU HF Championships and WRTC 2018**; Franschhoek Bastille Festival
14 - **RaDAR Challenge**; October RAE registration opens; West Rand ARC AGM
15 to 20 July 1916 - The Battle of Delville Wood
16 - Closing date Newbie logs
17 - Provincial schools open
19 - Delta Aquariid meteor shower
19 to 22 – Schreiner Karoo Writers Festival, Cradock
21 - **Winter QRP contest**; Pretoria ARC Flea Market
22 - **ZS2 Sprint**
25 - Closing date for August Radio ZS
27 to 29 – Winter Celebration, Hogsback
28 - **RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest**; Cape Town ARC AGM; Closing date for RaDAR logs; Closing date QRP contest logs
29 - **RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest**; Closing date for ZS2 Sprint logs

An update on the ZS SOTA Weekend.

The SOTA team of ZS5AYC, ZS5APT, ZS6ACT and ZS6MMS will be departing Uvongo early on Thursday morning 28 June.

There are two summits on the way to Sani Pass that Lucas, ZS6ACT and Magda, ZS6MMS are going to activate - ZS/KN-345 Hluku (KF49XJ) 2 points at about 09:00 CAT and ZS/KN-204 Klipspruit (KF49UL) 4 points at about 11:00 CAT, both on 7 090 kHz.

Saturday 30 June – ZS/KN-010, Hodson's Peak South at 3 256 m and ZS/KN-011, Hodson's Peak North at 3 251 m, both are in Grid Locator KG40PJ. The team is looing at 10:30 CAT for the first activity.

Also, on Saturday 30 June, Michael Wilson, ZS6MSW, Karin King, ZR6KAR and Graeme King, ZR6GAK are going to attempt the first activation of ZS/GP-022 Viljoen se Kop at 1 718 metres in KG43BI, it is a 4 pointer. They plan to be on the summit at around 09:00 CAT and will be operating on both 40 and 20 m. They will also attempt a S2S with the group on Hodson's Peaks.

Both groups would really appreciate contact with any of the chasers out there.

The ZS5 Sprint on Sunday 1 July

The ZS5 Sprint is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in KwaZulu-Natal and radio amateurs in Southern African countries and will be run from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 1 July 2018. The Sprint is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band with CW activity from 7 000 to 7 040 kHz and phone activity from 7 063 to 7 100 kHz and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz.

For stations in KZN, the exchange is a RS or RST report and your town name or abbreviation. For stations outside KZN, the exchange is a RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Scoring for KZN stations is 1 point per QSO with a station in KZN and 2 points with a station outside KZN. Scoring for other stations is 2 points per QSO with a station in KZN and 1 point per QSO with any other station. QSOs with the Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, the Durban ARC, ZS5D, the Hibiscus Coast ARC, ZS5HAC, the Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB, the Midlands ARC, ZS5PMB, or the Noord Natal Amateurradioklub, ZS5NAK, is worth 5 points each. Only one QSO per station is allowed.

Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "my call sign ZS5 Sprint," shall be submitted by 9 July 2018 by e-mail to zs5contest@harc.org.za

3Y0Z DXpedition (The Complete Story)

Bob, K4UEE, narrated an interesting PowerPoint presentation at both the recent DX Forum at the Dayton Hamvention and the W5DXCC/HamCom. This presentation includes a summary of the 3Y0Z DXpedition with stunning pictures, their Vessel vetting process, what they learned, planned refund of remaining funds, another attempt and some personal observations of K4UEE. Presentation is now available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq7degLxJOw

2018 IARU HF Championships

As promised, N6TV and OZ0J have made the 2018 IARU HQ station prefill files available via their website <https://bit.ly/itudtb>. The file itu.zip contains files compatible with N1MM+, Writelog, Win-Test and DXLog.net. Also, inside the zip file is Readme.txt with detailed installation and testing instructions. The zip archive will be updated as necessary until the contest start. Questions go to Bob, N6TV, n6tv@arri.net and call sign or headquarters updates to contest@oz0j.dk.

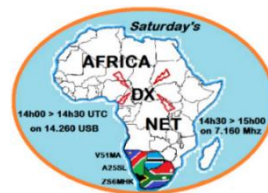
The Reverse Beacon Network and FT8

The Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) network <http://reversebeacon.net/> will soon start handling FT8 spots. Some RBN nodes are already testing upgraded software with actual spots to make sure the increased load can be handled. According to a message by Pete, N4ZR, <https://groups.io/g/RBN-OPS/message/2367> on two typical days at the end of May, FT8 spots accounted for over 85% of all spots received at one of the testing locations. The CW and RTTY spots will continue to be available on available on port 7000, while FT8 spots will be available on port 7001, using the standard TELNET protocol. For those RBN nodes that want to provide FT8 spots, a new version of the aggregator software will be required. According to Pete, "We will closely monitor how the RBN servers handle this new load, as more and more nodes begin sending FT8 spots. We also reserve the right to take steps as necessary to protect the core mission of the RBN, including shutting off the FT8 stream on major CW and RTTY contest weekends or, in an extreme case, discontinuing spotting of FT8 altogether. Even in a worst case scenario, FT8 spots will continue to be carried by PSKReporter." <http://pskreporter.info/>

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Senegal, 6W. Dominic, ON4AZP will be active as 6W/ON4AZP from 25 June to 5 July. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB. QSL to home call.



African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Canary Islands, ED8. Members of the GDXGC (Group DX Gran Canaria) and Radio Amateurs of the Northwest Gran Canaria Island will be active as ED8RY from the Canary Islands (AF-004, WW Loc. IL28ED) between 7 and 8 July. Activity is to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Drago de Gáldar. Operations will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via the Bureau, LoTW, eQSL or the QSL Manager EA8AKN.

Word to the Wise

Birdies - Birdies are unwanted RF or AF signals generated by or within equipment or receiving systems. Switching power supplies, computer CPU clocks, Ethernet cables and poorly shielded internal oscillators are among the common birdy generators.

A couple of ways to reduce birdies you may be hearing from your computer's networking gear include using common mode chokes on all the networking cables and switching to higher-speed networking gear such as gigabit Ethernet to move some of the frequencies out of the HF bands. Sometimes changing the location and orientation of network cables also can help.

WRTC 1990

With WRTC 2018 <http://www.wrtc2018.de/en/> occurring in just two weeks, Dave, K3ZJ, reminds that the promotional video for the first WRTC event held in Seattle, Washington in 1990 is available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7axUWjfmHWI>. "The movie captures the international goodwill, optimism and energy of the early 1990's." Younger versions of some of today's contesters can be seen in this video.

Operating Tip

Operate in the Days Before the Contest - try to be active on the bands in the days before a contest to better understand band conditions, noise and signal levels and equipment operation. Remember that you can utilize resources like the Reverse Beacon Network to verify band status if you do not hear any signals <http://reversebeacon.net/>.

HF radio wave propagation

Knowing more about HF radio wave propagation can make for better contest operating strategy. The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) has a free course (registration required) "Radio Wave Propagation" https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1394&tab=04 to provide a solid basis of understanding of how radio waves are propagated through the ionosphere and how solar events affect propagation. Propagation at higher frequencies is the focus of the "Introduction to Electromagnetic and Electro-Optic Propagation" course also offered by UCAR https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1087

Power

Think of it as a cache for ... power. A company is proposing to combine carbon based ultra-capacitors with lithium batteries, to realize the advantages of both. A capacitor's faster charge and discharge rates can smooth over bursty energy demands. <https://newatlas.com/nawa-technologies-carbon-ultra-capacitor/54972/>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 June to 2 July 2018

SKCC Sprint
 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 June
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 1 July 2018
 E-mail log summary to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 June
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
 Classes: Single Op
 Max power: 100 watts
 Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
 Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 29 June 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Con-test_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 June
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide
 Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 30 June 2018
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB
 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 28 June
 Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: United Kingdom
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 80 m Only
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RS and serial no
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: (see rules)
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 June 2018
 Upload log at: www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/r80mcc.shtml

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 June
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 1 July 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 June
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 30 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 4 July 2018
Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhell-club/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhell-club/Home/contests/sprints/full-day-of-hell-sprint>

Battle of Carabobo International Contest
00:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 30 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high
Max power: HP: 1 000 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: YV: RS(T) and state; Non-YV: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO between YV stations; 5 points per QSO between DX and YV stations; 4 points per QSO between DX stations on different continents; 3 points per QSO between DX stations on same continent; 2 points per QSO between DX stations in same country
Multipliers: Each YV state
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2018
E-mail logs to: contestbatalladecarabobo@gmail.com
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.radioclubvalenciaac.org.ve/index.php/concurso-internacional-batalla-de-carabobo/60-radio-club-valencia-a-c-international-contest-battle-of-carabobo-2018

RAC Canada Day Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op All Band CW; Single Op All Band Phone; Single Op QRP; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Single Band QRP; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province/territory; non-VE: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with non-VE stations; 10 points per QSO with VE stations; 20 points per QSO with RAC stations
Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2018
E-mail logs to: canadaday@rac.ca
Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada
Find rules at: <http://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules/>

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party
00:01 UTC 2 July to 24:00 UTC 8 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, FM, AM
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Individual; Club; QRP
Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 16 July 2018
E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org
Upload log at: www.hamclubs.info/scorer/
Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA
Find rules at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/Spirit.pdf>

IQRP Quarterly Marathon
08:00 UTC 2 July to 20:00 UTC 8 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: All
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 W
Exchange: RS(T)
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: 3 points per CW QSO; 2 points per SSB QSO; 1 point per digital QSO
Multipliers: km/100 of QSO with maximum distance
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x distance mult
Submit logs by: 22 July 2018
E-mail logs to: igrpclub@arimontebelluna.it
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.arimontebelluna.it/news/news_maratona_uk.htm

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 2 July
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: United Kingdom
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 3 July 2018
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/r80_mcc.shtml

Next Week's Contests

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 2 July to 24:00 UTC 8 July
IQRP Quarterly Marathon, 08:00 UTC 2 July to 20:00 UTC 8 July
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 July
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 July
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (Dig) 5 July
SKCC Sprint Europe, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 July
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 July
Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 7 July
FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 July
DL-DX RTTY Contest, 11:00 UTC 7 July to 10:59 UTC 8 July
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 7 July to 24:00 UTC 8 July
Marconi Memorial HF Contest, 14:00 UTC 7 July to 14:00 UTC 8 July
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 7 July to 15:00 UTC 8 July
PODXS 070 Club 40 m Firecracker Sprint, 20:00 UTC 7 July to 20:00 UTC 8 July
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 9 July

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter